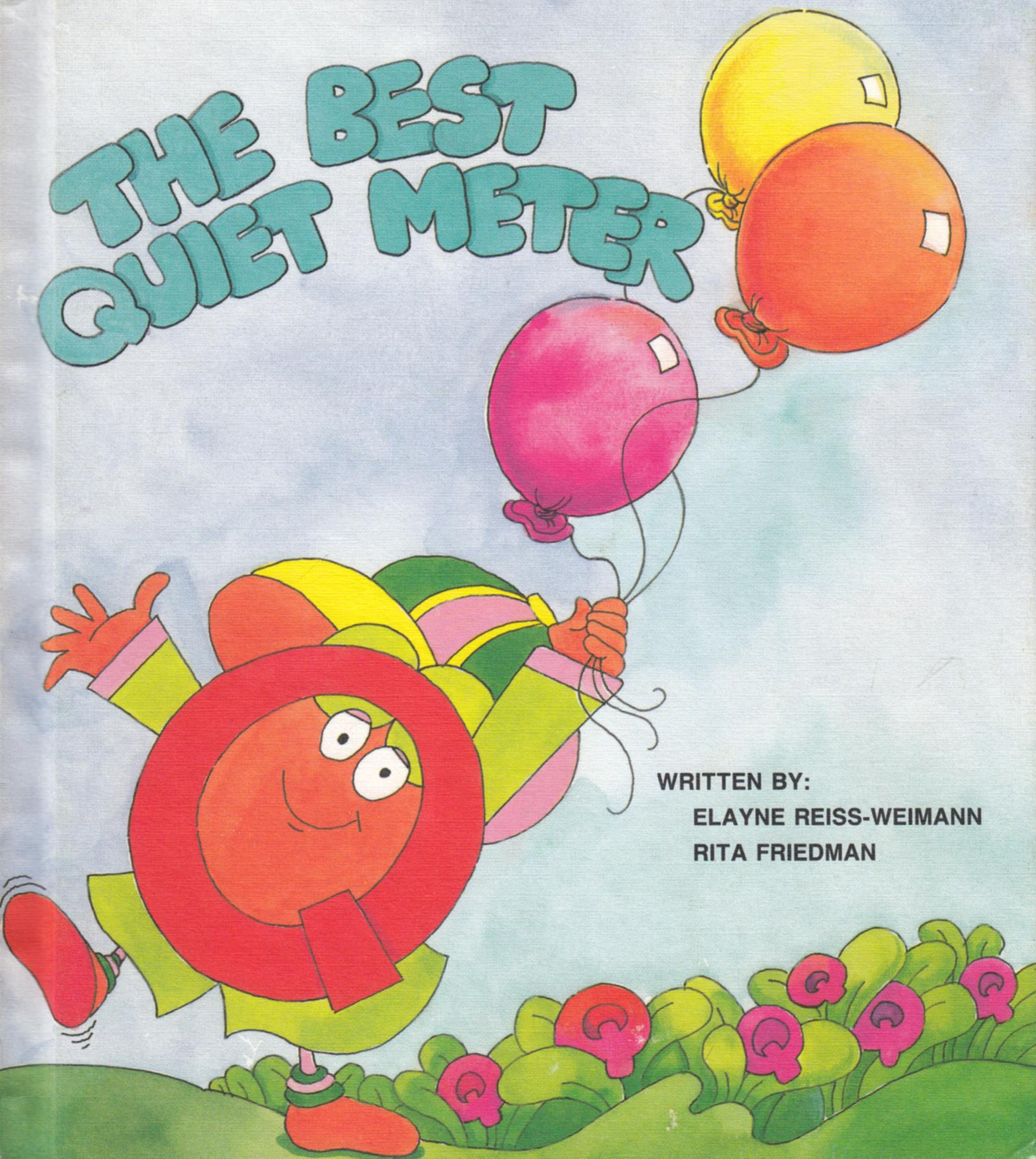


THE BEST QUIET METER



WRITTEN BY:

ELAYNE REISS-WEIMANN

RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. Q is the quiet expert of Letter People Land.
He helps make Letter People Land a quiet place to live.
People do not yell and shout.
Even the traffic is quiet.
Horns do not beep.



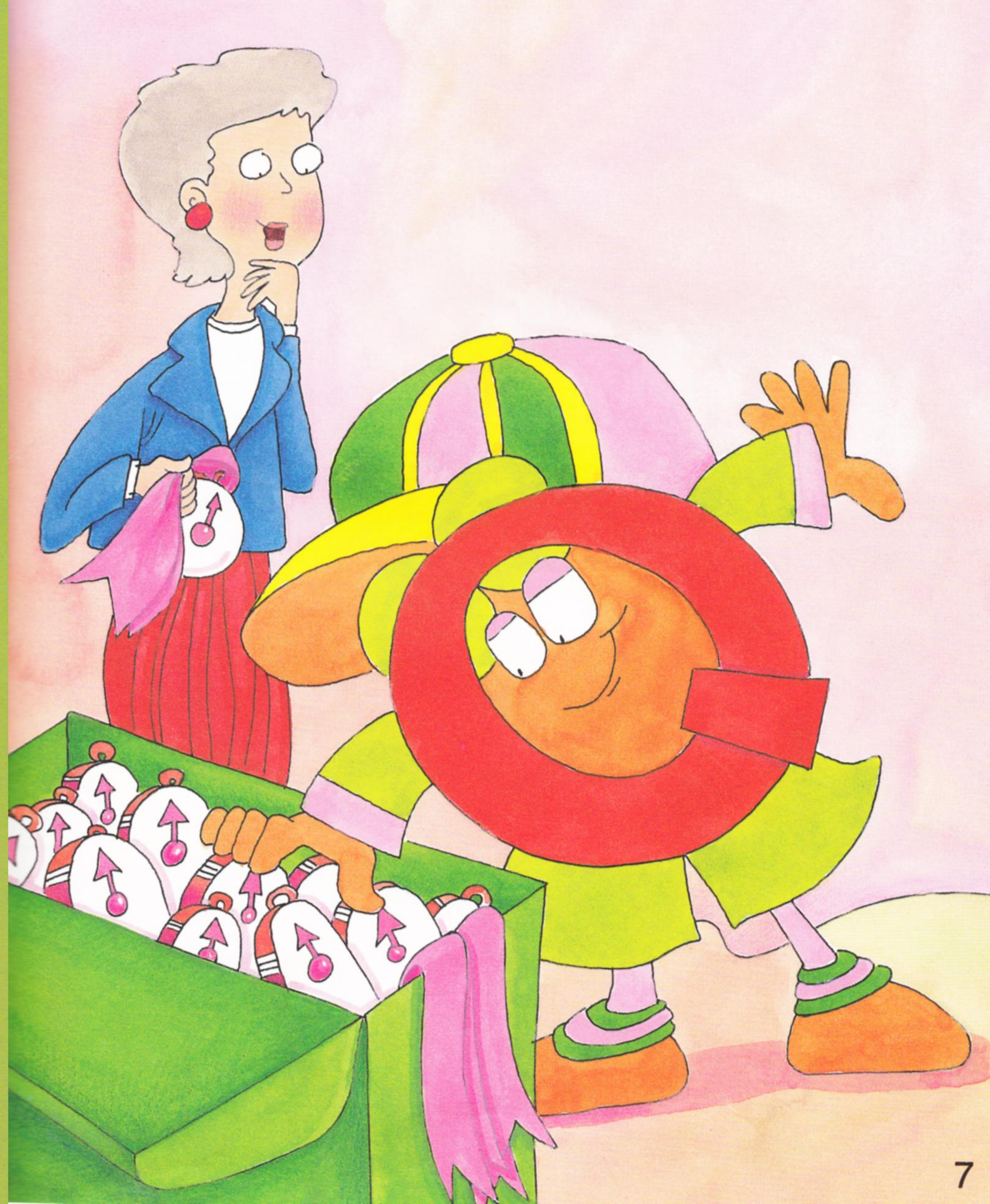
But in the summer, Letter People Land changes.
Tourists come from everywhere
to see the Letter People.
The tourists come on tour buses.
The tourists come in cars.
Beep! Beep! blow the car horns.
“Hurry! Hurry!” yell the tourists.



Every tour bus stops at every Letter Person's house.
"Please get out of the bus," say the bus drivers.
"We'll tell you all about the Letter People."
The bus drivers have megaphones.
The megaphones make their voices boom
all over the neighborhood.
"We like tourists coming to our town,"
say the people of Letter People Land,
"but the tourists must be quieter.
Our quiet neighborhoods are not quiet anymore."



Miss Quinn, the Director of Traffic,
explains the problem to Mr. Q.
Mr. Q opens a large trunk.
It is filled with small quiet meters.
Miss Quinn removes one from the trunk.
“People can wear a quiet meter
around their necks,” says Miss Quinn.
“It buzzes when the person wearing it is not quiet.
We’ll give one of these quiet meters
to each tourist.”



The next day, Mr. Q and Miss Quinn stand at the entrance to Letter People Land. They give a quiet meter to each tourist. Miss Quinn explains how the meters work. But the quiet meters do not solve the problem. All day long the quiet meters buzz all over Letter People Land.

“The quiet meters are making too much noise,” says Miss Quinn.

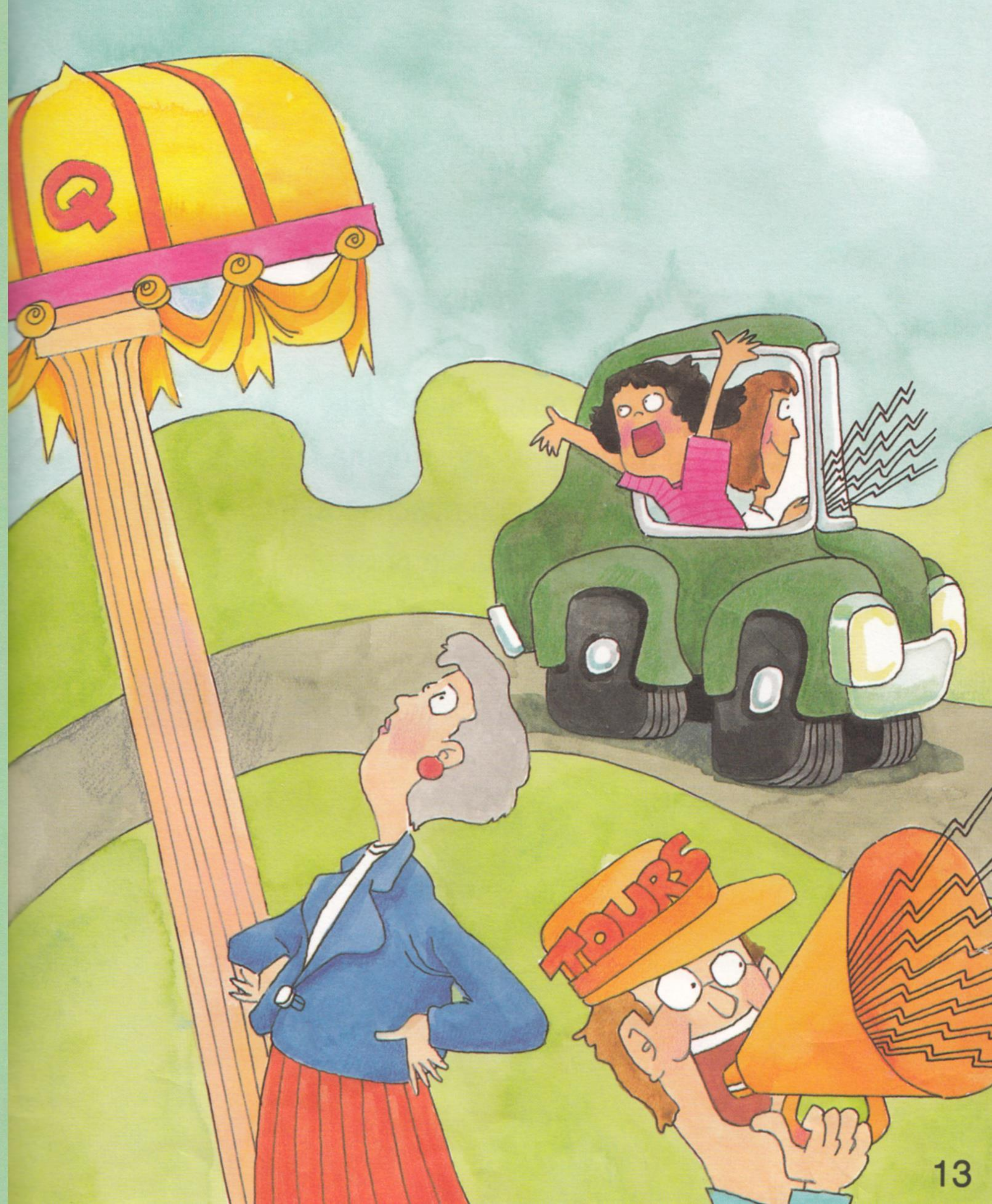
“The quiet meters are too heavy to wear,” say the tourists.



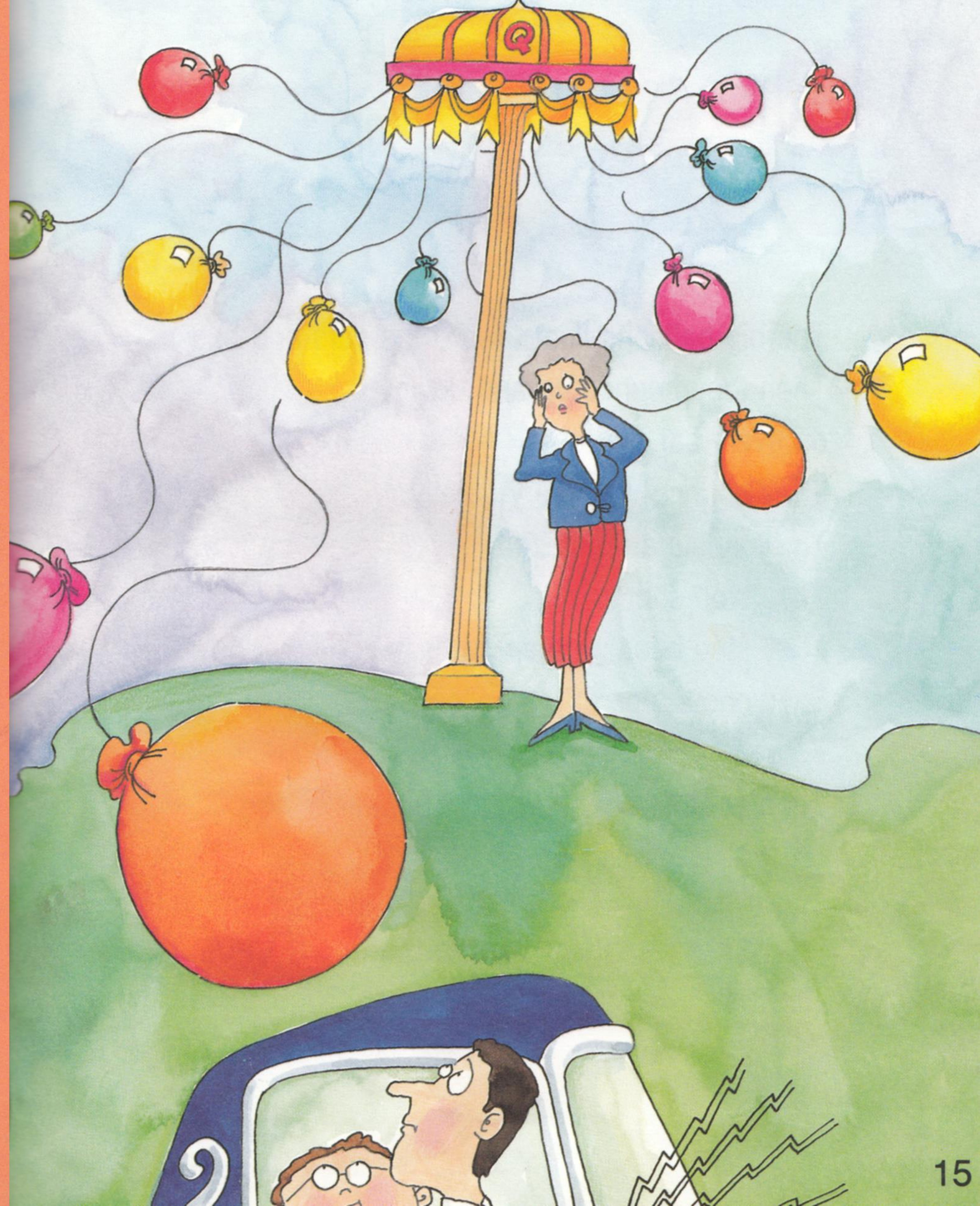
Miss Quinn asks Mr. Q for help again.
“I will have to make a different kind of quiet meter,”
thinks Mr. Q.
Mr. Q works and works.
He invents a new quiet meter.
It is very big.
Mr. Q puts it on top of a tall pole
near the entrance to Letter People Land.



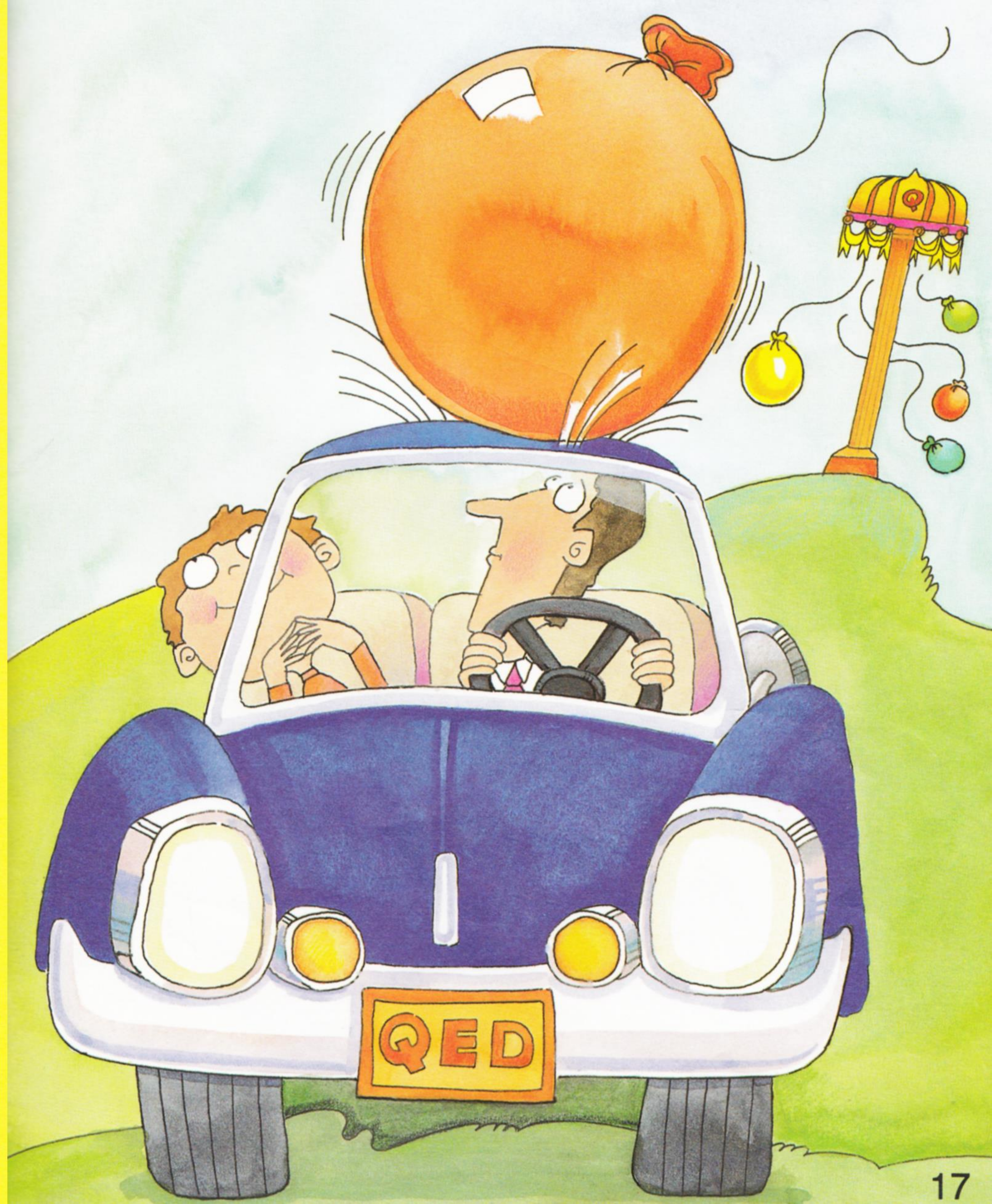
Soon the tourists arrive.
They are happy when Mr. Q and Miss Quinn
do not give them quiet meters to wear.
The people don't worry about being quiet.
They start shouting.
Horns start beeping.
“It is very noisy,” thinks Miss Quinn.
“When will the new quiet meter work?”



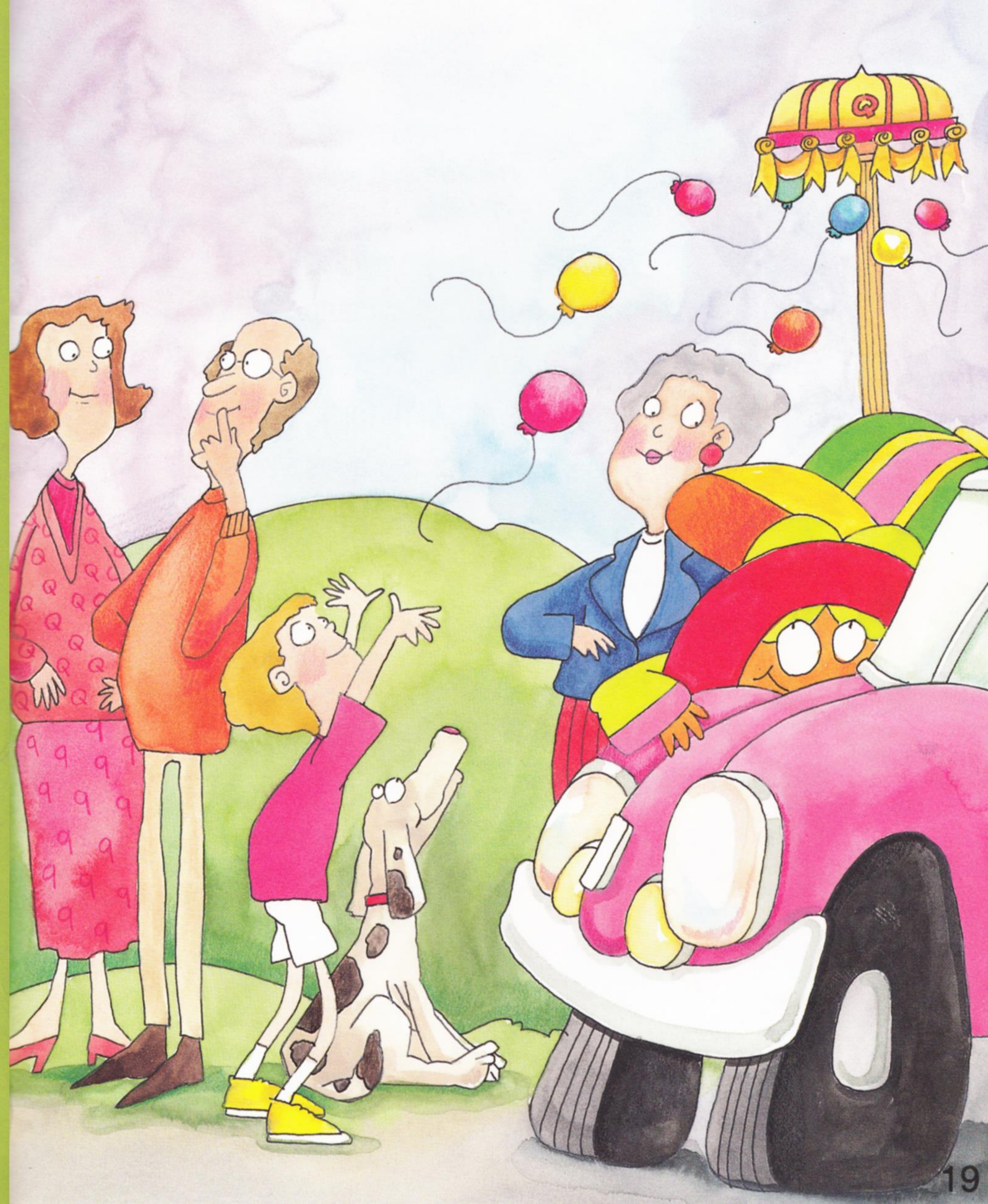
Suddenly the new quiet meter starts to work.
Many small balloons float out of the meter.
Each balloon has a string attached to it.
The balloons float toward the noise.
The balloons get bigger and bigger
as they get closer and closer to the noise.
“I wonder what will happen next?” thinks Miss Quinn.



The big balloons float toward the cars and buses.
Then they bounce up and down
on every car and bus.
They bounce very, very quietly.
The tourists are amazed.
They stop shouting.
They stop beeping their horns.
Everyone stares at the balloons.
There isn't a sound.
Then another strange thing happens.



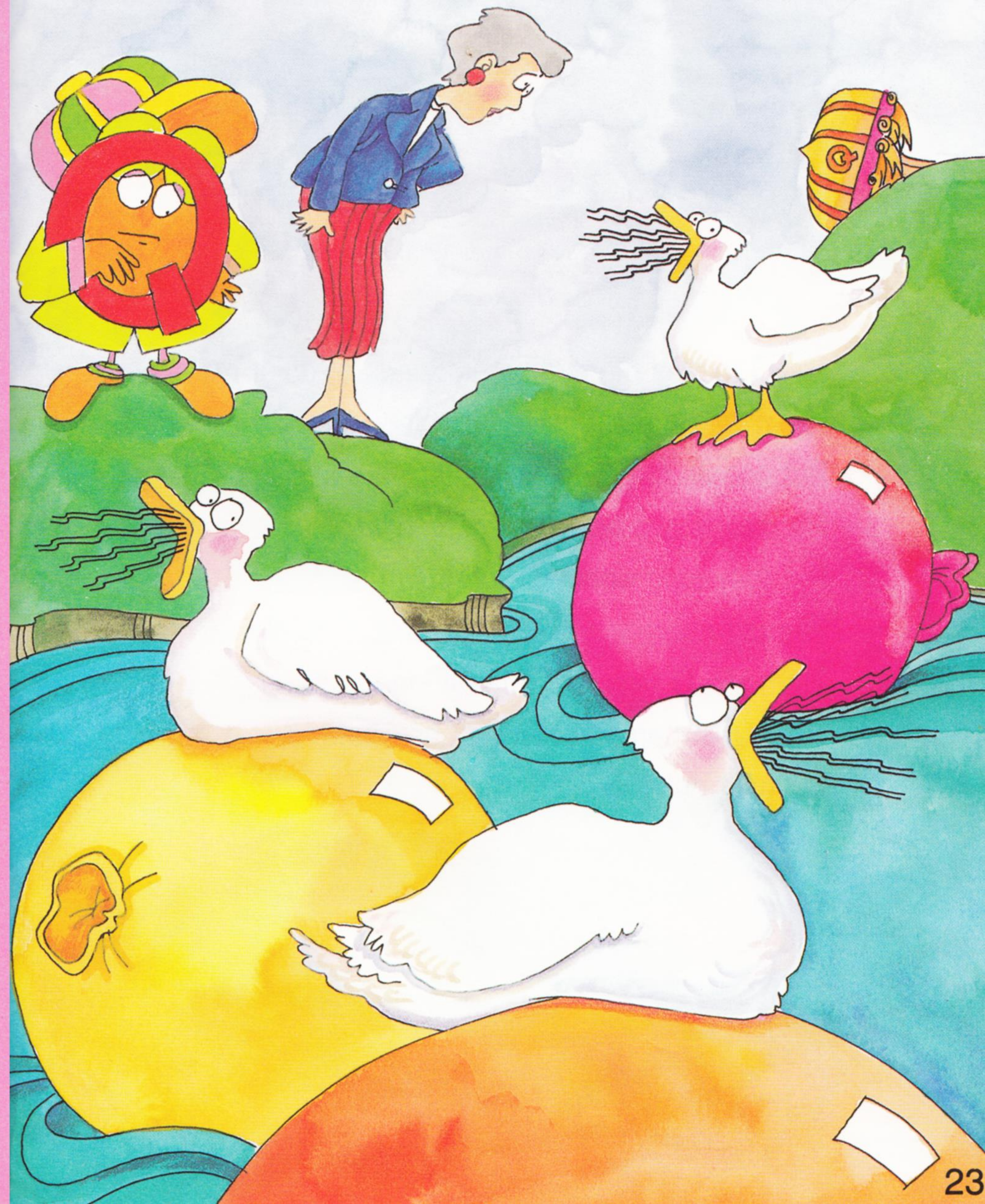
The quiet makes the balloons float up high.
The balloons get smaller and smaller.
Then they disappear into the quiet meter.
“What an amazing quiet meter,” whisper the tourists.
People everywhere hear about the amazing quiet meter.
“We don’t want balloons bouncing up and down
on our cars or buses,” say the tourists.
“We don’t want to be blamed
for making all the noise.”
So people are quiet when they visit
Letter People Land.



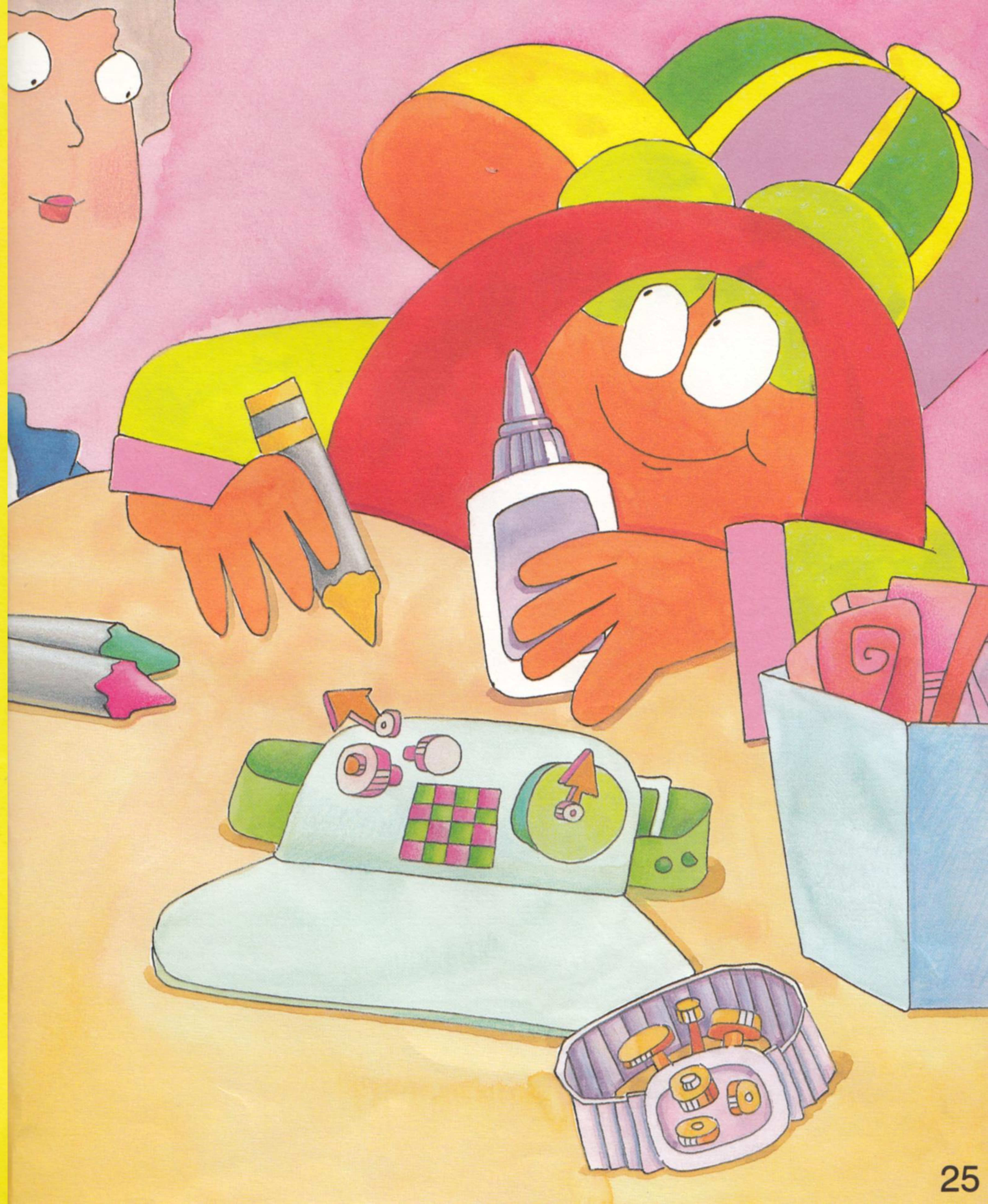
One windy night the quiet meter disappears.
The next day Miss Quinn cannot find it anywhere.
She asks Mr. Q to help her look for it.
Mr. Q knows noise will make the meter work.
Mr. Q claps and claps his hands,
but no balloons appear.
Mr. Q blows and blows his trumpet,
but no balloons appear.
Mr. Q bangs and bangs his drum,
but no balloons appear.
“The quiet meter must be broken,” thinks Mr. Q.



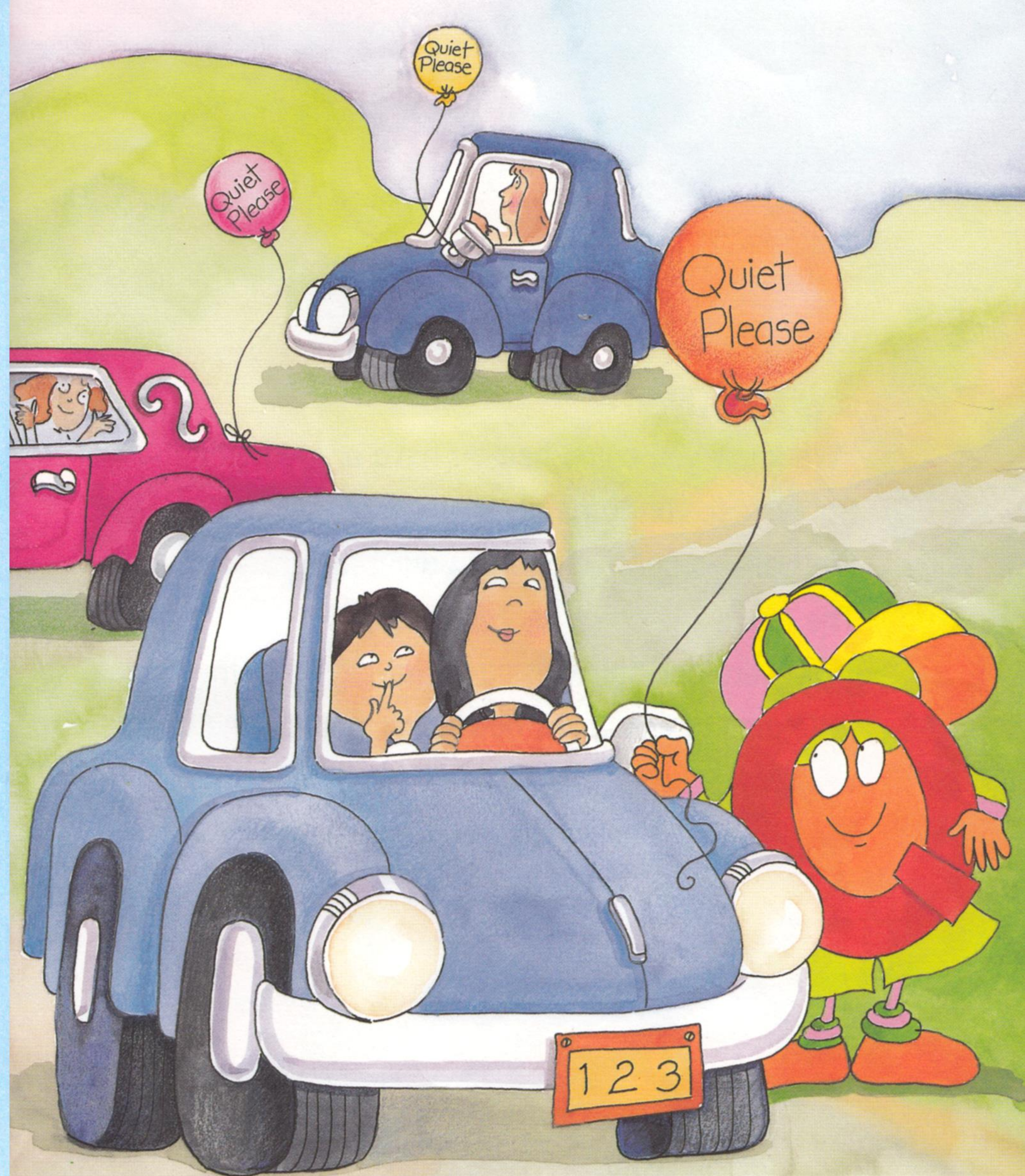
Suddenly Mr. Q hears ducks going quack, quack, quack. He and Miss Quinn quickly follow the quacking sounds. They see a very queer sight. The quiet meter is lying on its side near the lake. Large balloons are floating everywhere on the lake. Ducks are sitting on top of the balloons, quacking and quacking and quacking. "Those balloons won't have a chance to get smaller," thinks Mr. Q, "because ducks quack all day long. I'll try to invent a new quiet meter."



Mr. Q makes many different kinds of quiet meters.
He makes a quiet meter people wear on their wrists.
But people forget to wear them.
He makes a quiet meter people wear as sun visors.
But they only work when the sun is shining.
“I must make a better quiet meter,” thinks Mr. Q.
Then Mr. Q has a wonderful idea.
Miss Quinn agrees that he has found
the best quiet meter.



The next day Mr. Q and Miss Quinn wait for the tourists.
Mr. Q and Miss Quinn have many, many balloons.
“Quiet Please” is written on each balloon.
Mr. Q ties a balloon onto every car and bus.
“Is this a new quiet meter?” the tourists whisper.
“No,” says Miss Quinn, “these balloons are only to remind you to be quiet.”
Mr. Q discovered the very best kind of quiet meter.”
“What is the very best quiet meter?” ask the tourists.
“You are!” says Miss Quinn.



“You see, we like tourists to visit us,”
says Miss Quinn.

“We know you come here to have a good time.
But we ask you to be considerate of us too.
We want you to be your own quiet meters.”

The tourists become very, very quiet.

“We were only thinking about having fun,” they say.

“We didn’t think about how noise disturbs the people
who live in Letter People Land.

We can have fun without being so noisy.”



Now when tourists visit Letter People Land they remember to be considerate of the people who live there.

Mr. Q still gives everyone a balloon.

The balloons don't say, "Quiet Please" anymore.

Each balloon says, "Welcome to Letter People Land!"

